

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-18, 25-29, 33-38, and 41-54 are active.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the arrangements defined in Claims 52-54 are directed to allowable subject matter. In view of the following discussion and the attached evidence, Applicants request that all of the claims be allowed.

The Examiner maintains that the claims would have been obvious in view of Forker, by itself or combined with Craver, or Plumat and further in view of Gerhardigner. The reasons underlying the rejections remain the same. In the Examiner's response to the previous arguments on pages 12-13 of the Official Action the Examiner indicates that he has considered the previously filed Declaration evidence but criticizes various issues finding that the Declaration is insufficient to convince him that Forker's glass is different than that which is claimed. More specifically, the Examiner criticizes the calculation of the interdiffusion coefficient based on the use of an approximation and that Forker's glass is not allegedly a soda-lime silicate glass.

As the Applicants explained previously, the glass of Forker is not the same as the glass defined in the claims of the above-referenced application and while the Applicants believe the explanation was based on sound science, Applicants submit a further Declaration to demonstrate why the Forker glass is not the same as that claimed.

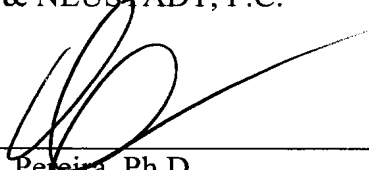
As shown by calculation in the Declaration, the activation energy for the interdiffusion of metal alkali ions in the glass of Forker can be shown to be 270.6 kJ/mol. This clearly demonstrates that the glass of Forker is not such that "*the interdiffusion coefficient at 490°C of the exchanged alkali metal ions is less than $2 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$* " as defined in the present claims. As the glass of Forker has an interdiffusion coefficient at 490°C of the exchanged alkali metal ions much higher than in the glass defined in the claims, at high temperature, the glass of Forker will rapidly lose its state of tempered glass and its mechanical properties.

In view of the above discussion and consideration of the evidence presented in the specification, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

A Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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